06

DYNAMITE®

RATED TEEN

THE HERCULOIDS

SNIEGOSKI

ROUSSEAU

SOMEWHERE OUT IN SPACE LIVE THE HERCULOIDS: ZOK, THE LASER-RAY DRAGON, IGOO THE GIANT ROCK APE, TUNDRO THE TREMENDOUS, GLOOP AND GLEEP THE FORMLESS, FEARLESS WONDERS!

WITH ZANDOR THEIR LEADER, AND HIS WIFE TARA AND SON DORNO, THEY TEAM UP TO PROTECT THEIR PLANET FROM SINISTER INVADERS!

ALL STRONG, ALL BRAVE, ALL HEROES! THEY'RE...

THE HERCULOIDS

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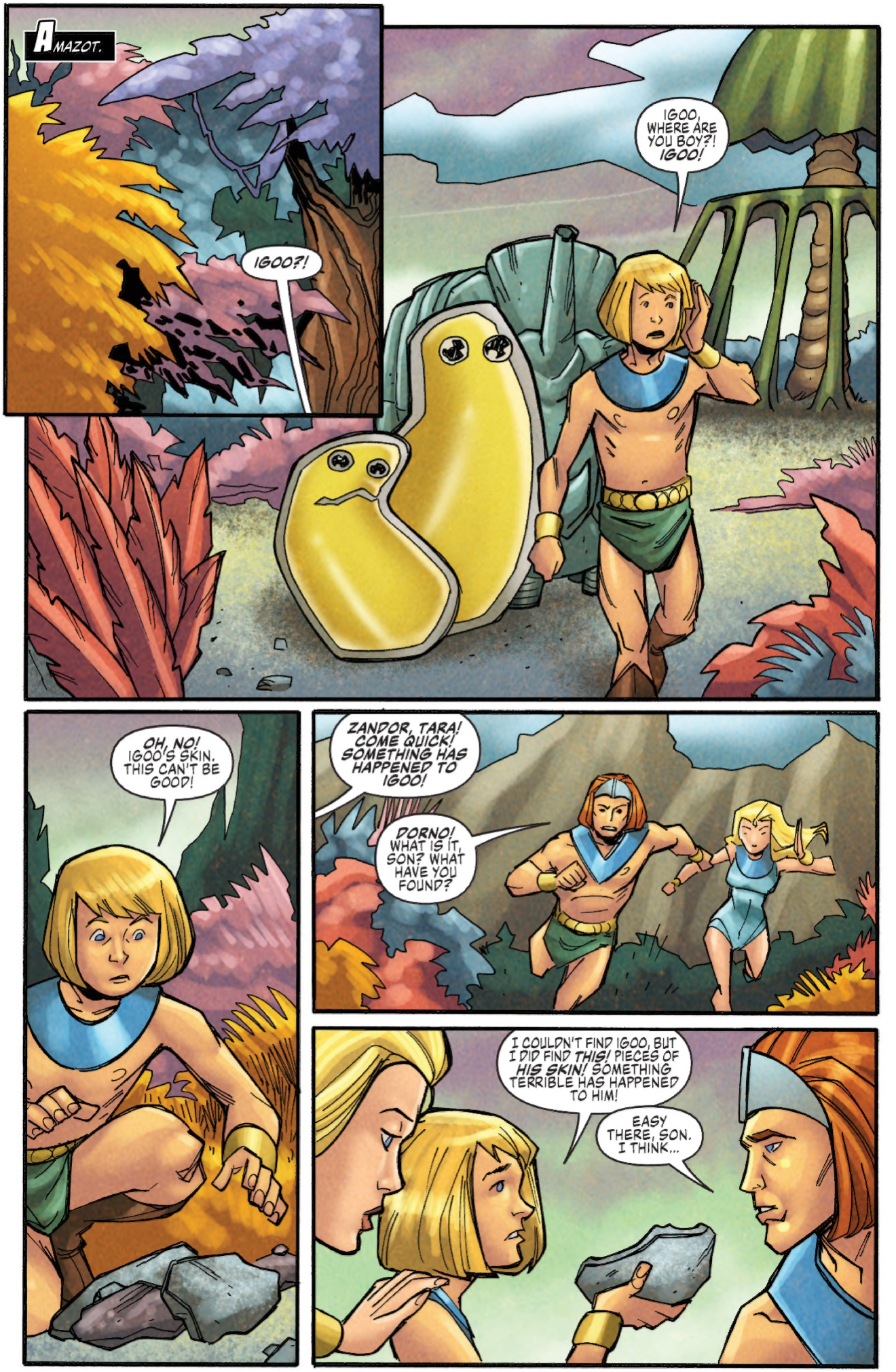
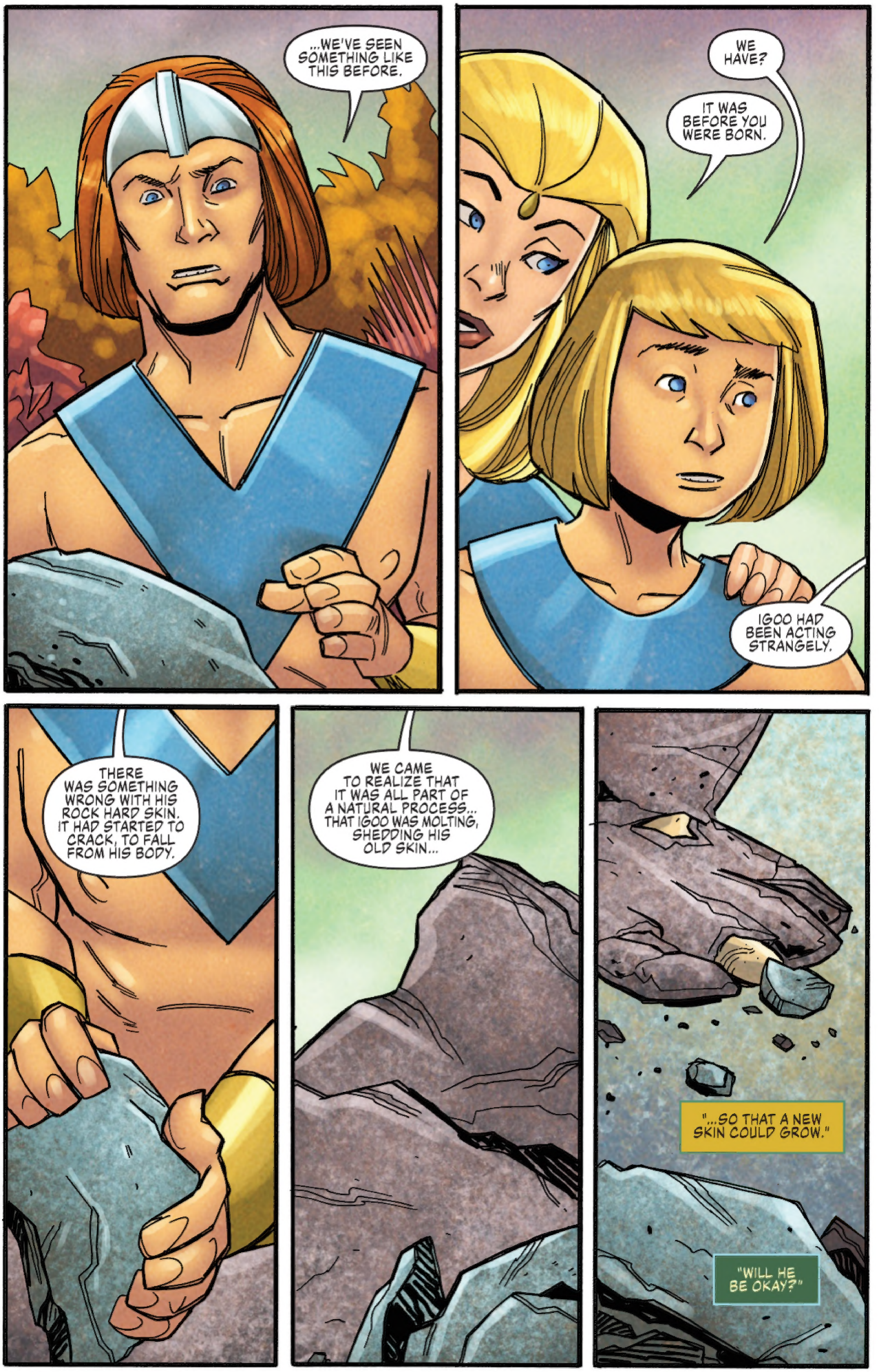

AMAZOT.
IGOO?!
IGOO, WHERE ARE YOU BOY?! IGOO!
OH, NO! IGOO'S SKIN. THIS CAN'T BE GOOD!
ZANDOR, TARA! COME QUICK! SOMETHING HAS HAPPENED TO IGOO!
DORNO! WHAT IS IT, SON? WHAT HAVE YOU FOUND?
I COULDN'T FIND IGOO, BUT I DID FIND THIS! PIECES OF HIS SKIN! SOMETHING TERRIBLE HAS HAPPENED TO HIM!
EASY THERE, SON. I THINK...

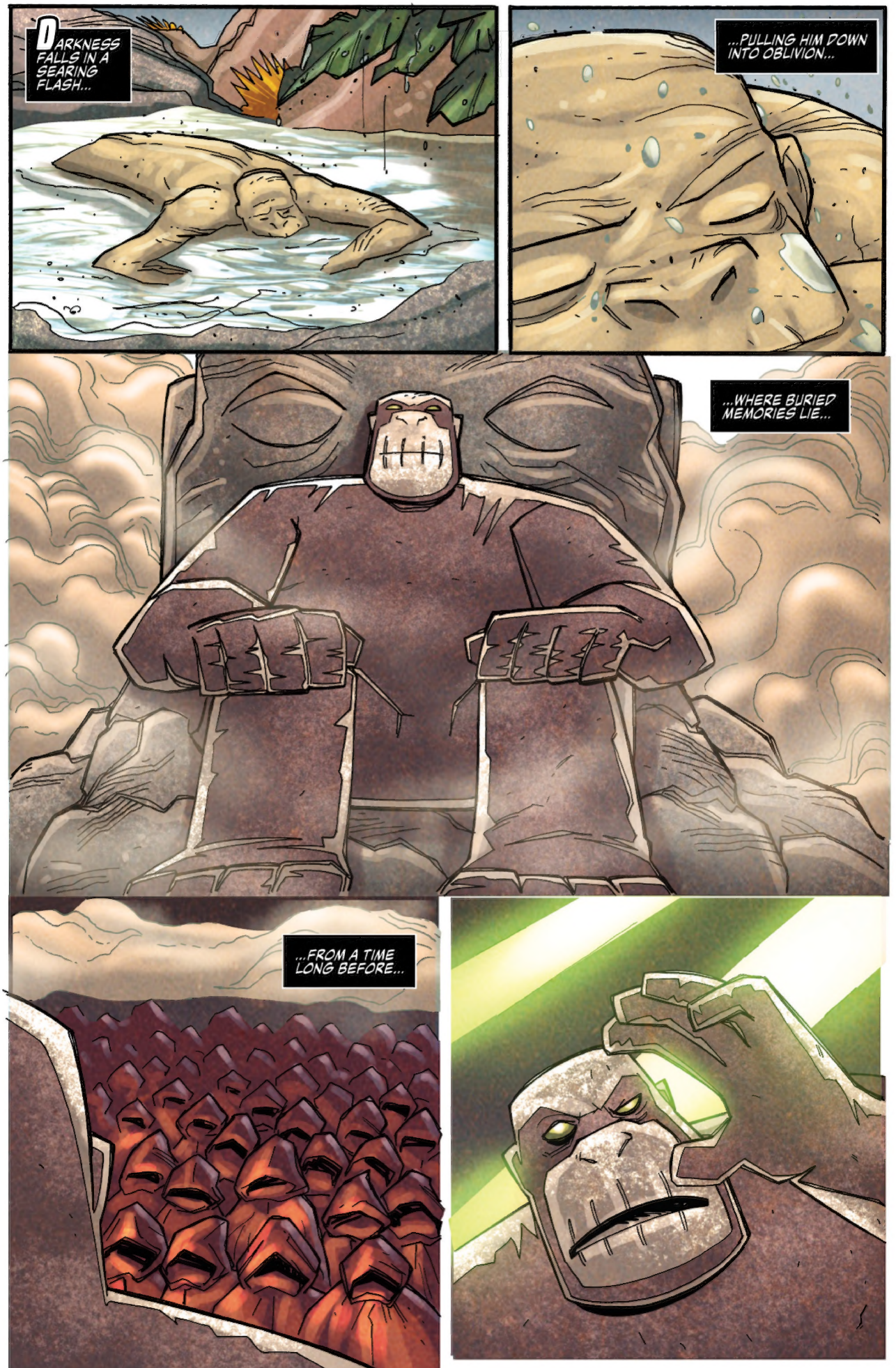

...WE'VE SEEN SOMETHING LIKE THIS BEFORE.
WE HAVE?
IT WAS BEFORE YOU WERE BORN.
IGOO HAD BEEN ACTING STRANGELY.
THERE WAS SOMETHING WRONG WITH HIS ROCK HARD SKIN. IT HAD STARTED TO CRACK, TO FALL FROM HIS BODY.
WE CAME TO REALIZE THAT IT WAS ALL PART OF A NATURAL PROCESS... THAT IGOO WAS MOLTING, SHEDDING HIS OLD SKIN...
"...SO THAT A NEW SKIN COULD GROW."
"WILL HE BE OKAY?"

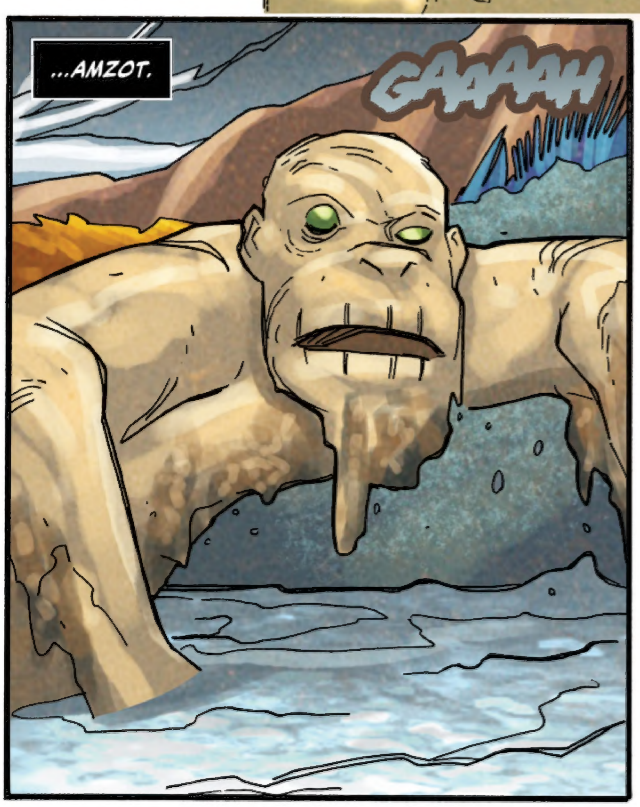
"IM SURE HE'LL BE FINE.
"WE JUST NEED TO LET NATURE TAKE ITS COURSE."
SCRATCH
SCRATCH
SCRATCH
SCRATCH
IN ORDER FOR THE NEW TO GROW, THE OLD MUST COME OFF...
...BUT, THERE IS A DANGER TO THIS...
SNAAPIT
...FOR AMZOT DOES NOT SUFFER THE WEAK...

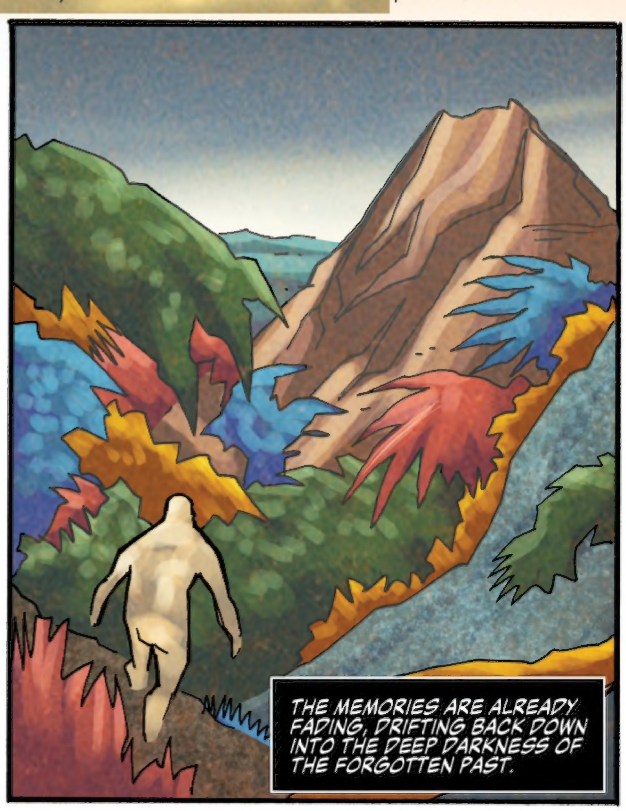
KRASSSSHH
ROOOOOARRRH
UNNGH
WOOMMMPH
ARRRGH
SMMMMM
KRAAACHH

...AND ONLY THE STRONG WILL SURVIVE.
ROOARRRRRRRGGGH
DOOMMMPH
HRRRRR

OOARRGH


DARKNESS FALLS IN A SEARING FLASH...
...PULLING HIM DOWN INTO OBLIVION...
...WHERE BURIED MEMORIES LIE...
...FROM A TIME LONG BEFORE...


...AMZOT.
GAAAAH

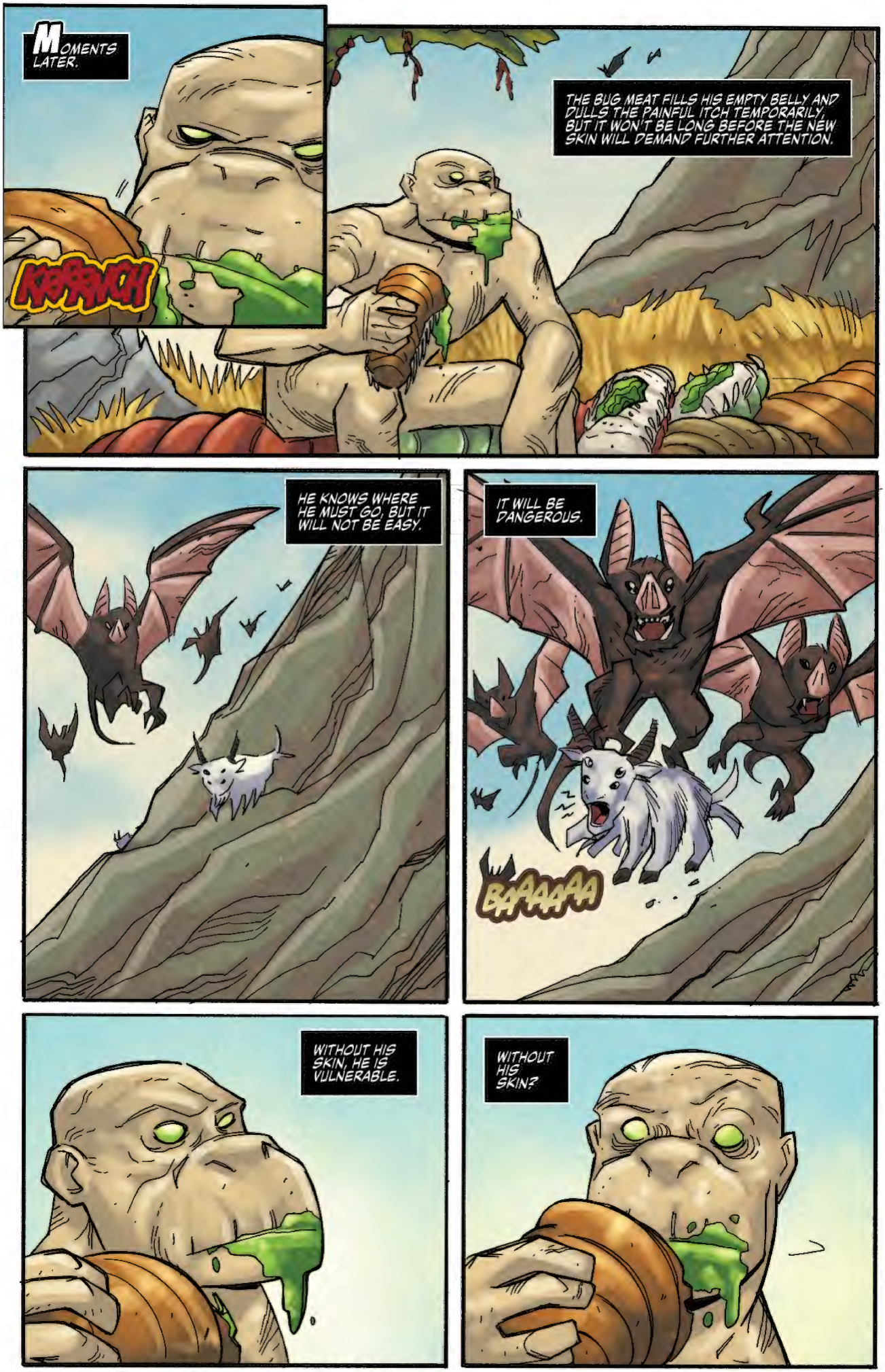

THE MEMORIES ARE ALREADY FADING, DRIFTING BACK DOWN INTO THE DEEP DARKNESS OF THE FORGOTTEN PAST.

THERE ARE MORE PERTINENT NEEDS TO BE SATISFIED.
THE NEW SKIN IS TRYING TO GROW...
SKRITCH
SKRITCH
...BUT WILL NEED SOME HELP.
GURGLE-SMURGLE
OHHHHHHHHHH
MMMMMMMMM

GLLLARRRRGGLLLL
URRGH
AHHHHHHHH
KERRRRAAAAKK
SQUEELCHH
OOHUFF

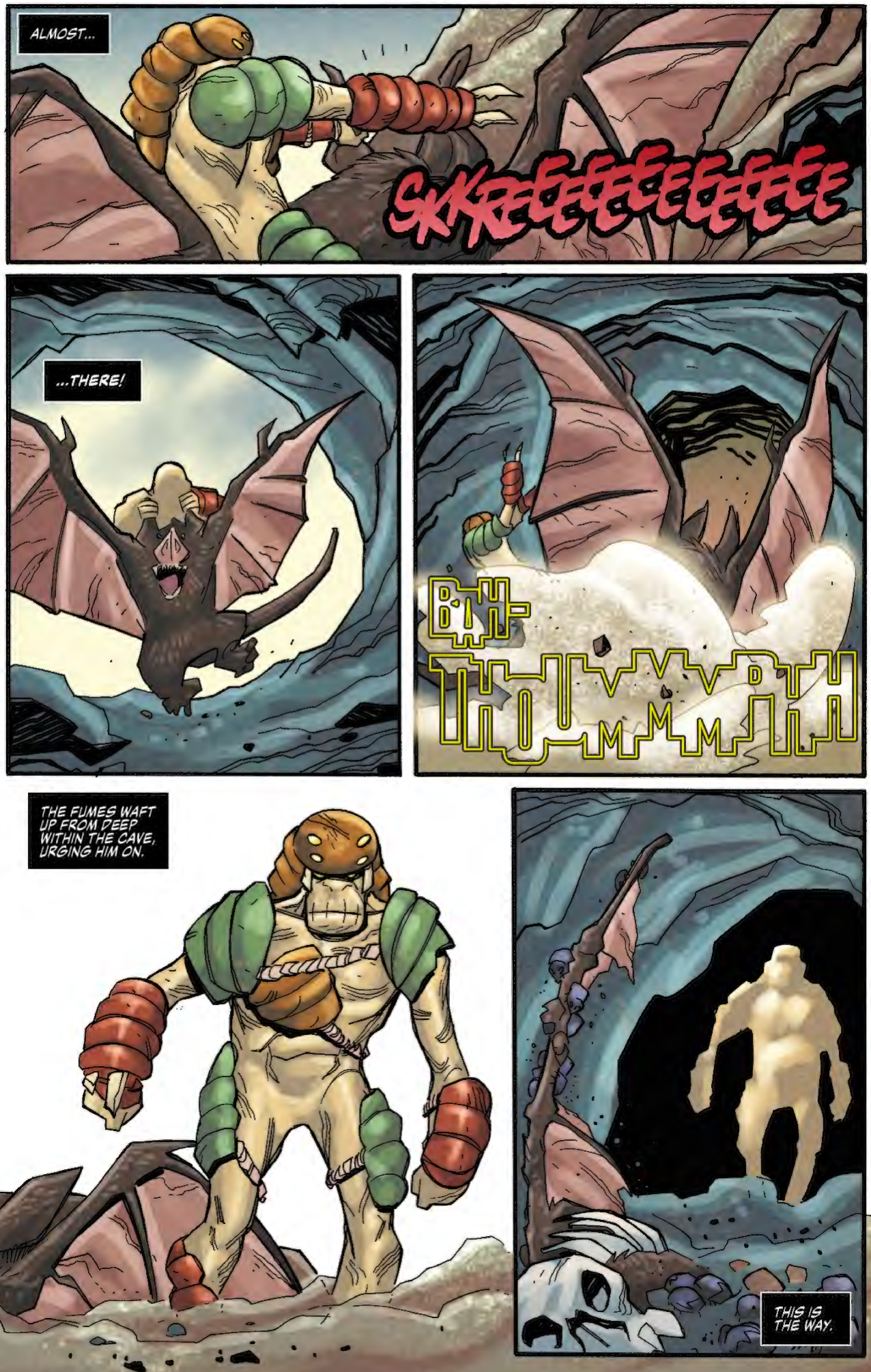
HSSSSSSSSSSSS
YAARAAAAH
SPPLLOOOOOOOOSSSH
HSSSSSSSSSSSS
OUHUFF
SKREEEEEEEEE
HSSSSSSSSSSSS
HRRRRR
GRRAAR
WOLLAK

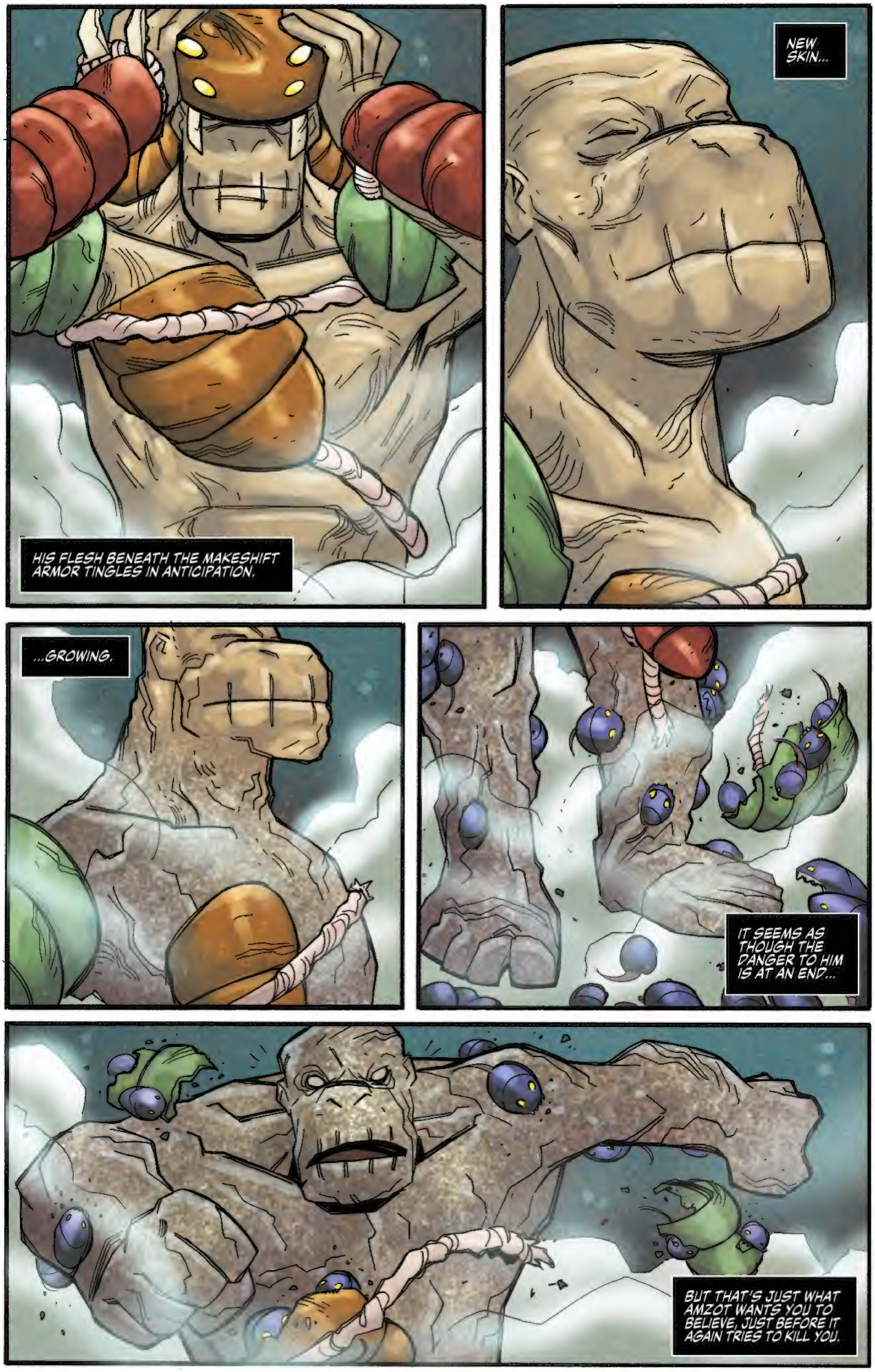
HSSSSSSSSSS
HSSSSSSSSSSSSSSS
SHUNKK
SKREEEEEEEE
KLIK
KLIK
KLIK-KLIK
KLIK
HYAAA
FIRRRGGL

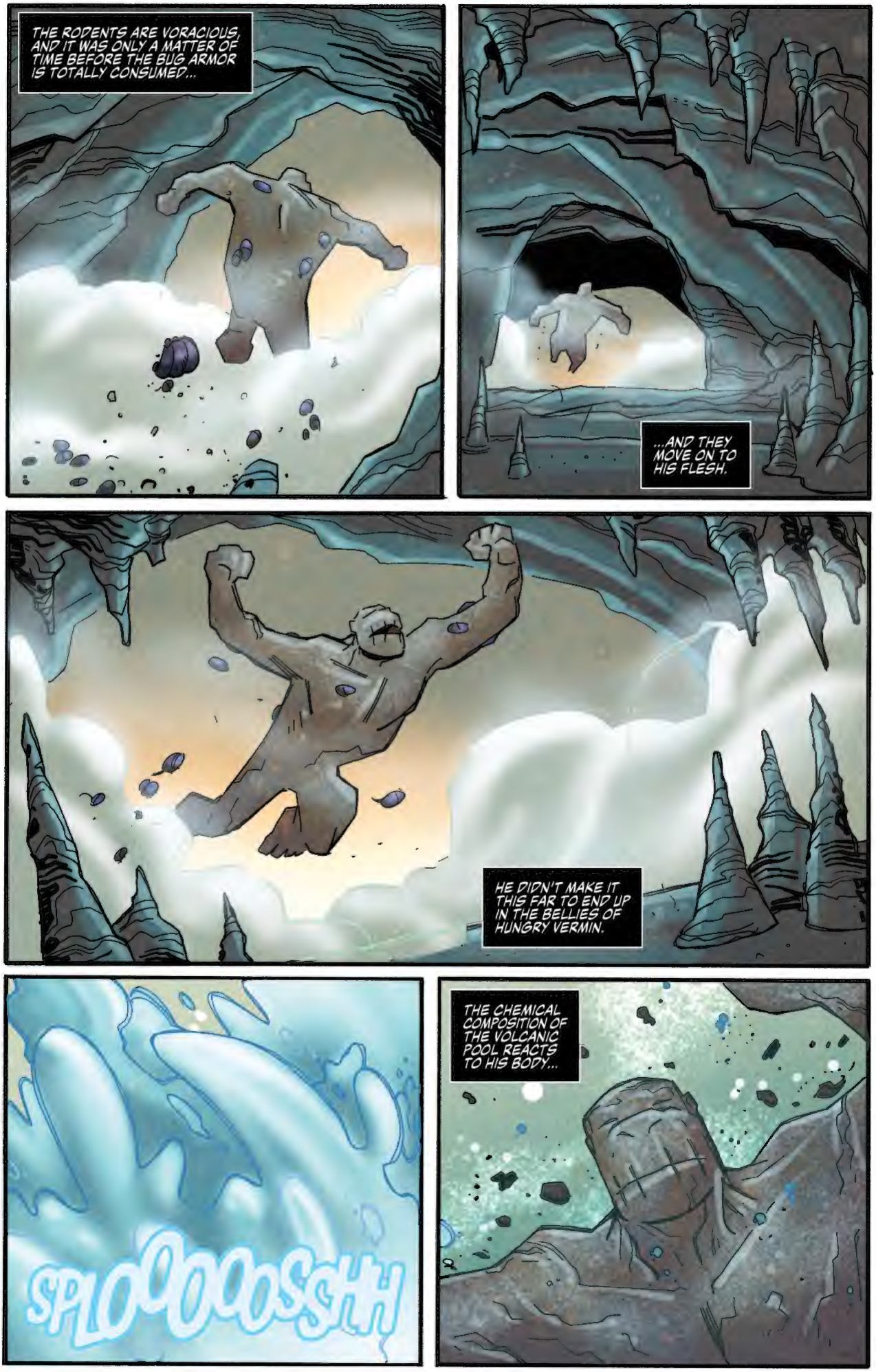

MOMENTS LATER.
KRRRNCH
THE BUG MEAT FILLS HIS EMPTY BELLY AND DULLS THE PAINFUL ITCH TEMPORARILY, BUT IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE THE NEW SKIN WILL DEMAND FURTHER ATTENTION.
HE KNOWS WHERE HE MUST GO, BUT IT WILL NOT BE EASY.
IT WILL BE DANGEROUS.
BAAAAAA
WITHOUT HIS SKIN, HE IS VULNERABLE.
WITHOUT HIS SKIN?

THE CLIMB IS ARDUOUS, BUT THERE IS NO CHOICE.
THE SKIN MUST FINISH GROWING...
SKREEEEEEE
...BEFORE AMZOT SUCCEEDS IN KILLING HIM.
SLLLLLUSSSH
YEEEEEEEK
HE HAS ALMOST REACHED HIS DESTINATION...

SO...
...CLOSE!
HE SENSES AN OPPORTUNITY...
...AND TAKES IT!
SKREEEEEEEEEEEE

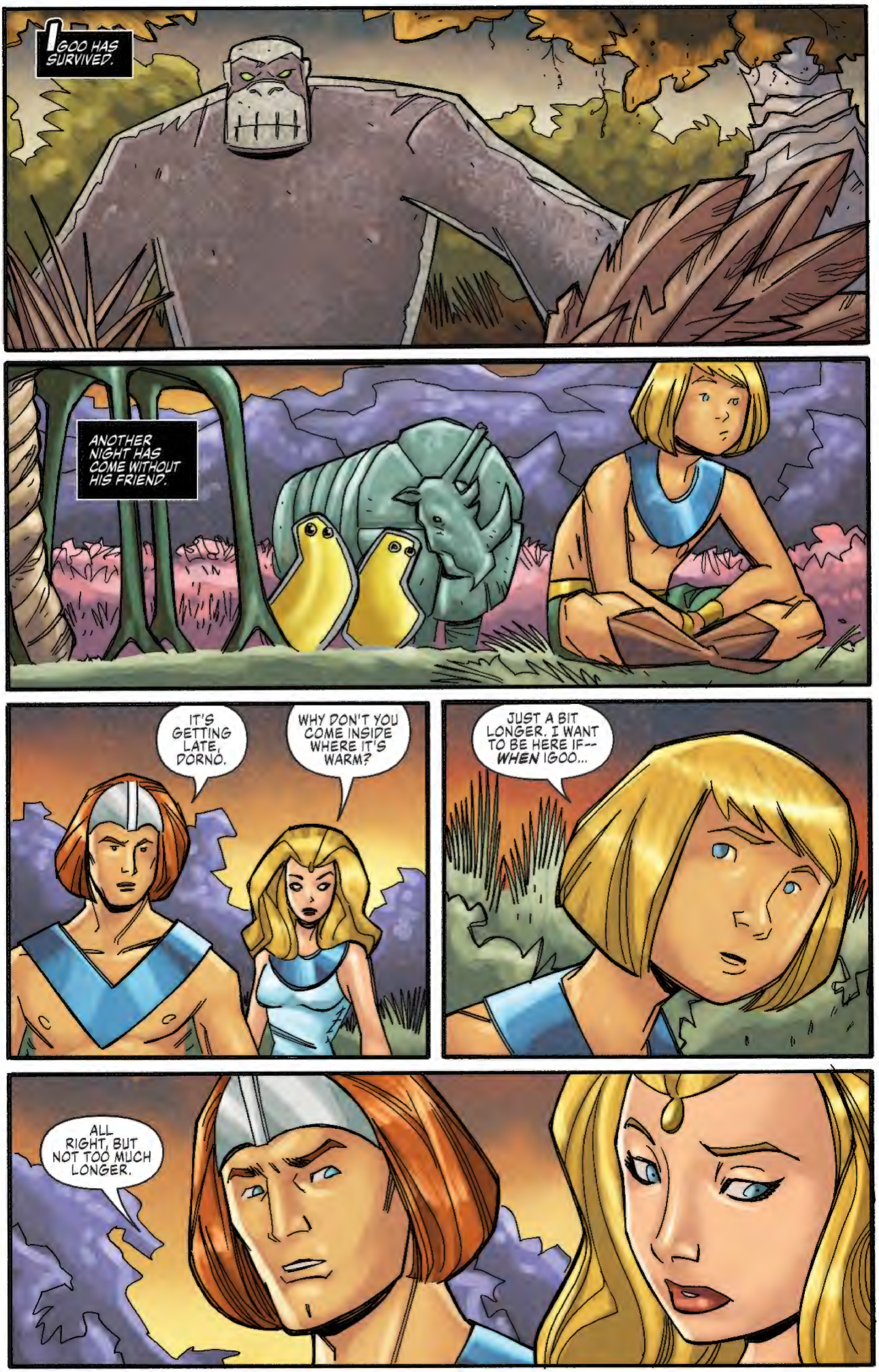

ALMOST...
SKKREEEEEEEEEEEEE
...THERE!
BAH-THUMMMMPTH
THE FUMES WAFT UP FROM DEEP WITHIN THE CAVE, URGING HIM ON.
THIS IS THE WAY.

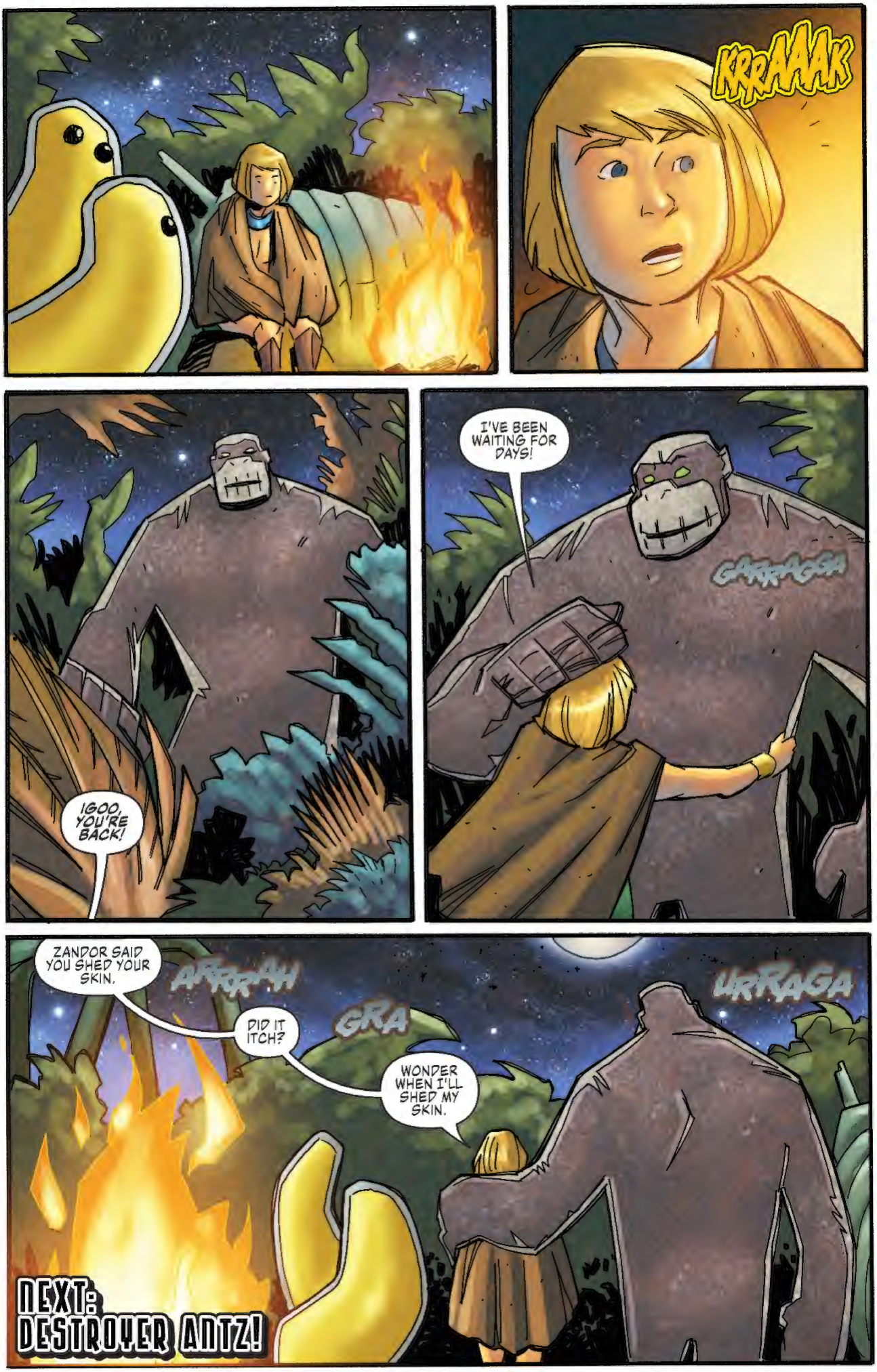

HIS FLESH BENEATH THE MAKESHIFT ARMOR TINGLES IN ANTICIPATION.
NEW SKIN...
...GROWING.
IT SEEMS AS THOUGH THE DANGER TO HIM IS AT AN END...
BUT THAT'S JUST WHAT AMZOT WANTS YOU TO BELIEVE, JUST BEFORE IT AGAIN TRIES TO KILL YOU.


THE RODENTS ARE VORACIOUS, AND IT WAS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THE BUG ARMOR IS TOTALLY CONSUMED...
...AND THEY MOVE ON TO HIS FLESH.
HE DIDN'T MAKE IT THIS FAR TO END UP IN THE BELLIES OF HUNGRY VERMIN.
SPLOOOOSHH
THE CHEMICAL COMPOSITION OF THE VOLCANIC POOL REACTS TO HIS BODY...

...TRIGGERING NEW SKIN TO GROW FASTER.
IT COULDN'T HAVE COME AT A BETTER TIME.
ARRRRRRGGAAAHH
SPLOOOOOOOOOOOSSH
RRRAAAAAAARGH
THWUMMMRRH

THE VOLCANIC POOL HAS FINISHED THE PROCESS, AND HE HAS AGAIN PROVEN HIS STRENGTH TO AMZOT.
SNAPIT
BUT AMZOT IS PATIENT, NOT EASILY IMPRESSED...
BONKKT
BONKKT
ARRRAAAAAGGAAAAH
...AND WILL TEST HIM AGAIN SOME OTHER TIME.
FOR NOW THOUGH, HE HAS SUCCEEDED.


IGOO HAS SURVIVED.
ANOTHER NIGHT HAS COME WITHOUT HIS FRIEND.
IT'S GETTING LATE, DORNO.
WHY DON'T YOU COME INSIDE WHERE IT'S WARM?
JUST A BIT LONGER. I WANT TO BE HERE IF-- WHEN IGOO...
ALL RIGHT, BUT NOT TOO MUCH LONGER.


KRRAAAK
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR DAYS!
GARRAGGA
IGOO, YOU'RE BACK!
ZANDOR SAID YOU SHED YOUR SKIN.
ARRGRAH
GRA
URRAGA
DID IT ITCH?
WONDER WHEN I'LL SHED MY SKIN.
NEXT: DESTROYER ANTZ!

ANOTHER HANNA-BARBERA CLASSIC IS BACK ON THE FOUR-COLOR PAGE! WRITER JIMMY PALMIOTTI BREAKS IT DOWN!

***The Blue Falcon & Dynomutt* is one of the most iconic Hanna-Barbera shows, and we're excited to bring it back to comics. Similar to some of our other H-B titles — like *Space Ghost* — this classic series also follows a superhero arc, which makes it a natural fit for the medium. What history do you have with watching this goofy duo's original adventures?**

I was 15 at the time, and I remember watching them as part of a Saturday morning group of cartoons. I always thought they were silly fun, nothing ever too heavy, and they felt a lot like H-B's version of Batman with a dog sidekick that happens to be a robot. When I was offered this series from Dynamite, I had to go back and watch the cartoons again, and yeah, they were not the deepest story-wise, but there was a joy that the two main characters had and a connection between them that I thought would be a good story element to explore. Remember, our memories of things when we were young stay with us forever!

The show originally kicked off with Dynomutt leading the way in both the title and being more of the focus in the stories, although the second season switched to the shared title that our series is also using. What is your approach in writing the series and balancing these two characters? Is it a 50/50 share, or are you putting a bit more of the spotlight on one or the other?

I can relate more to Blue Falcon, and he is front and center in the story with Dynomutt starting off as a real dog rather than the mechanical mutt we see in the cartoons. This is not the origin of Blue Falcon, but a story about a man and his dog and their connection throughout a major event in both their lives — things happen that cause Radley to depend on the technology he created to help him out of his situation. By the end of the book, it becomes more 50/50 for both characters, but number one for me in writing this series is that it has to be fun — well, my version of fun anyway. I will say that some of it is much darker than people might remember, but it makes sense to the characters. I updated the world around them a bit for sure.

It sounds like you're taking a whole new spin on the world of Big City and the origins of Radley Crown and his faithful canine companion, which the original show barely touched on. How would you compare the tone you're going for with the more lighthearted original cartoon?

My take is not lighthearted, story-wise, but it has its moments where fun and humor are part of their lives, like they are for anyone, no matter how heavy things get. This series is all about relationships — the main one involving our characters, the love life of Radley Crown, and even the villain's relationship with the world. I always try to answer two simple questions with a new series: What do the characters want, and what do they fear? The answers are all here within their adventure together. I think this book will appeal to the diehard *Dynomutt* audience as well as anyone giving it a shot for the first time.

Pasquale Qualano is joining you for this series as your artistic companion in crimefighting. How is the collaboration going, and what's it been like seeing his pen bring your action-packed scripts to the page?

I always find it difficult to work with someone I haven't worked with before, and the cool part of diving right into this with Pasquale is that I am getting to watch him not only nail it, but also seeing how he gets better with each issue. His evolution in this book is really fun to watch as he starts to make Big City and its inhabitants live and breathe on the page. He has quite the future ahead of him! I am not always the easiest writer to deal with, I know, and he is doing a terrific job. Just wait till you see issue #3 — so impressive!

***The Blue Falcon & Dynomutt* were also famous for initially sharing a programming block with Scooby-Doo and his gang, and even featuring in multiple crossover episodes. Do you think that famous crew could fit into the vision you've built up for this series?**

I think it's an easy fit, especially with the world we are setting up in this series. Those kids and their Mystery Machine would fit right into Big City and the things going down in it! Radly is quite the businessman and inventor, so I think a trip investigating an insurance scam involving a crooked Big City politician haunting city hall would be a no-brainer. I also think Scooby and Dynomutt would be sniffing butts and getting along in no time.

NEXT ISSUE:

LIFE ON PLANET AMZOT - IT'S NO PICNIC!

Every day brings new challenges to the denizens of the Herculoids' home world, where the concept of "survival of the fittest" gets taken to a whole other level. (Case in point: this issue's clash with the Destroyer Ants!) But what is the secret behind Amzot's unique flora and fauna - and how did the Herculoids become a part of it?

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BJORN BARENDS

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